

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 26, 2010, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 5 2005; October 12, 2006; August 24, 2007; July 16, 2008 and September 22, 2008.

Claims 1-32 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 2, 4, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 29 have been canceled and claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 31 and 32 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-13, 16, 17, 20-28 and 30-32 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 31 and 32 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-32 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,636,325 to Farrett. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claims 1, 5, 8, 20 and 32 have been amended to recite speech synthesis means of generating data expressing synthetic speech by combining selected voice data mutually; and lacked portion synthesis means of synthesizing voice data expressing a waveform of a voice unit in regard to the voice unit, on which the selection means was not able to select voice data, among voice units in the text without using

voice data which the memory means stores, and in that the speech synthesis means generates data expressing synthetic speech by combining voice data, which the selection means selected, with voice data which the lacked portion synthesis means synthesizes. Independent claims 3, 16, 17 and 31 have been amended to recite generating data expressing synthetic speech by combining selected voice data mutually; and synthesizing voice data expressing a waveform of a voice unit in regard to the voice unit, on which voice data was not able to be selected, among voice units in the text without using the stored voice data, and in that generating data expressing synthetic speech by combining the selected voice data with synthesized voice data. For the reasons provided below, the Applicant respectfully submits that Farrett does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.


It is respectfully submitted that Farrett only potentially discloses a technique of "selecting linguistic units from a first memory segment of the system which correspond to characters in a text string and concatenating the selected linguistic units in a second memory segment" (Farrett, claims 1 and 20). However, Farrett does not disclose, either explicitly or inherently, the above mentioned "lacked portion synthesis means" or the method step of "synthesizing voice data," as claimed in the present invention.

Since Farrett does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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